



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
Office of Science and Technology



Water Quality Standards Database

January 31, 2002

Summary

EPA is developing a National Water Quality Standards Database (WQSDB) to improve public access to information on how the waters they care about are being protected, and how actions in their watershed can help or harm those waters. The first phase of this on-line database consists of a compilation of “designated uses,” which describe the functions each waterbody is intended to support -- fishing, swimming, drinking water source, or some other use. The second phase of the WQSDB will add numeric “water quality criteria”, which represent the quality of water that supports particular uses. When completed, the WQSDB will allow access to maps and tables for all of the approximately 2.7 million surface water bodies across the nation. You can visit the database at:

www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase .

Status

The January update on the internet of the WQSDB includes state approved information on designated uses in table form for 18 states. Surface water maps¹ also are available for 13 of these states. (**New or updated information is shown in bold type.**)

Arizona	Table and Map	New Mexico	Table and Map
Colorado	Table and Map	North Dakota	Table and Map
Delaware	Table and Map	Oklahoma	Table
Iowa	Table and Map	Rhode Island	Table
Illinois	Table and Map	South Dakota	Table and Map
Missouri	Table ² and Map	Tennessee	Table and Map
Mississippi	Table ² and Map	Texas	Table
Montana	Table	Utah	Table
Nebraska	Table and Map	West Virginia	Table and Map

¹ Maps can be accessed at www.epa.gov/waters/enviromapper. EnviroMapper allows information like designated uses to be shown on water body maps from the National Hydrography Dataset, maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey.

² includes numeric water quality criteria

Data Awaiting State/Tribe/Territory (State) Approval

Nineteen states are reviewing new and updated data, which we hope to include in the next update to the WQSDB:

California	Table and Map	Montana	Map
Connecticut	Table and Map	Nevada	Table and Map
Confederated Salish & Kootenai	Table and Map	Ohio	Table and Map
Delaware	Map	Oklahoma	Map
Florida	Table and Map	South Carolina	Table and Map
Idaho	Table and Map	South Dakota	Map
Kansas	Table and Map	Texas	Map
Louisiana	Table and Map	Utah	Map
Mississippi	Table ² and Map	Virgin Islands	Table
Missouri	Map ²		

² includes numeric water quality criteria

Expected New States

We have begun, or expect to begin work in 2002 with at least the following 4 states:

Indiana	Pilot	Minnesota	Preliminary
Kentucky	Pilot	North Carolina	Pilot

For More Information

The WQSDB is a component of the WATERS information system, which also contains state listings of impaired waters. For more on WATERS, see www.epa.gov/waters

WQSDB Web Site: www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase (Tables, link to maps, and link to state and federal WQS text documents: www.epa.gov/ost/wqs/)

For more information, or comments on the WQSDB, please contact Bill Kramer at: (202) 260-5824, or kramer.bill@epa.gov